

for food, being taken just before the flower opens and being cooked as young squash are. The flowers themselves are also cooked and eaten. The covering of the mature fruits is also eaten, having much the same flavor as the eastern date. From the leaves of this same tree is also obtained a fiber which forms the bulk of the 'ixtle' fiber exported from this consular district." (Voetter.) For distribution later.

UNIDENTIFIED. (Zinziberaceae.) 29529. Roots of ginger from near Tsinanfu, Shantung, China. Presented by Rev. H. W. Luce, Shantung Christian University, Weihsien, China. "This light colored variety so far as I can find out is grown in sandy soil." (Luce.) Introduced for the purpose of trying ginger culture in more northern latitudes than has heretofore been tried in the United States. For distribution later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

ALGERIA, Oued-Zenati. Mr. A. Clave, Director of the Oued-Zenati School for Boys, writes February 2 that he has not been able to get the seed of *Pyrus longipes*, but he sends specimens of *Medicago sativa tunetana* and several other plants of his locality.

FIJI, Suva. Mr. Charles H. Knowles, Superintendent of Agriculture, writes December 23, 1910, that he will be glad to send us specimens and seeds of *Aleurites triloba* as soon as he can obtain them. If he can find the *Maba elliptica* on the island of Kandavu, which he visits rather rarely, he will get it for us.

HONDURAS, Puerto Cortes. Mr. Claude I. Dawson, American Consul, sends us under date of January 26, sample of the wood of the so-called guano "palm", really *Ochroma lagopus*, one of the Bombacaceae. "The wood is very porous, and one of the lightest of all woods, lighter even than true cork, the specific gravity of which is 0.240, while the guano is 0.120; fibrous and very difficult to work, because of the fibers which impede the action of the tools." (Cook and Collins, Economic Plants of Porto Rico.) This specimen was secured for the Office of Pomological Investigations in the hope that the sawdust of this species may take the place of cork and the sawdust of heavier woods, for grape and other fruit packing.

INDIA, Calcutta. Major A. T. Gage, Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, writes January 14 that there will be no difficulty in getting for us quite a quantity of the seeds of *Diospyros embryopteris* (*D. peregrina*), as the trees are fairly common in the garden and fruit fairly freely.